

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

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RESEARCH ACCESS CHAIRWOMAN

JOANNE HARVEY, GENEALOGIST

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Regulations Comments Desk, NPOL
Room 4100, Policy and Planning Staff
National Archives and Record Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

5 Sept 2006

Dear Sirs,

As a working professional genealogist and as the Chair for Research Access of the Michigan Genealogical Council, I am keenly aware of the discrepancy between the demands of the researching public and the funds provided to American cultural institutions.

In the case of the National Archives question of available service hours, judging by my experience with Michigan's services and my own client and public research needs, I strongly recommend that the Saturday service hours be continued in force. Washington hosts thousands of Americans annually, many of whom visit the National Archives and many of whom need to do research - or just visit - on a Saturday. It is perfectly effective to close on a week day.

It is also important to maintain at least one week night with later work access hours for the public, possibly Friday to coincide with those who come on a trip for research which will last over a weekend.

Here in Michigan our Archivist of Michigan has structured open research hours to complement those of the Library of Michigan, making the most favorable schedule possible for researchers, and enabling visitors to best use their limited time.

Tourism is important in any area - in a time when funds are increasingly directed out of the country, we need to use in-country funds wisely.

Sincerely,

Joanne H. Harvey, AMLS, Paralegal
Research Access Chair
Michigan Genealogical Council